GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:31
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Shortage of Pulses
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a gap between the demand and supply of pulses in the country during the last year and the current year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the black-marketing/ hoarding of pulses have also played a vital role in the rise in prices of pulses in the country, if so, the number of such cases reported across the country and the corrective steps taken thereon during the said period, State/UT-wise;
(c) the details of the production, demand, supply and import of major pulses in the country during the said period, State/ country-wise; and
(d) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any long term strategy to check the rising price of pulses as well as to protect the interest of the farmers, if so, the details and the achievements thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.* 31 FOR 26.04.2016 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF PULSES.

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. There has been a gap between the demand and supply of pulses in the country during the last year and the current year as the domestic demand for pulses is higher than the domestic production, as indicated below:-

(in million tonnes)
Year 2014-15 2015-16
Production 17.15 17.33
Imports 4.58 5.79
Exports 0.22 0.26
Total Availability 21.51 22.86
Demand 22.68 23.66
Gap/Shortage -1.17 -0.80

Sources:- Niti Ayog, D/o Commerce (DOC) and D/o Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)

The shortfall in domestic production has been due to adverse weather conditions and the rise in demand on account of rise in population, rise in per capita income and change in food habits among others. Black-marketing/hoarding has also put pressure on prices of pulses. The details of State-wise corrective steps taken against black-marketing/hoarding in the country during the said period are at Annexure-I.

(c) : The details are at Annexure-II.

(d) : Yes, Madam. In order to check the rise in prices of pulses as well as protect the interest of farmers, Government has been implementing Price Support Scheme (PSS). The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of pulses has also been increased to encourage farmers to grow more pulses. Further, a buffer stock of pulses has been built with support from Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) both through domestic procurement directly from farmers as well as imports. All these initiatives will increase availability of pulses, thereby stabilising their prices.
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